

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 05282 200922Z
ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T SEOUL 5282

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR KS US
SUBJ: PRESIDENT PARK PLANS NEW INITIATIVE TO RE-ESTABLISH NORTH-
SOUTH DIALOGUE

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER AFTERNOON OF JUNE 20, HE TOOK THE OCCASION TO GIVE ME ADVANCE NOTICE OF A NEW INITIATIVE TO RE-ESTABLISH NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. PRESIDENT PARK ON JUNE 23, THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT ON NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS, PLANS A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE IS EXPECTED TO MAKE A NEW PROPOSAL ON NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS. IN ESSENCE HE WILL PROPOSE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY TO CONSIDER BILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS. THE PROPOSAL WILL BE COUCHED AS AN EFFORT TO CULTIVATE TRADE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA. THE PRESIDENT WILL PROPOSE THAT THE INITIAL CONTACTS, AT LEAST FOR THE ROK, BE MADE BY NON-GOVERNMENTAL BUSINESS GROUPS. TO THIS END THE ROK WILL ALLOW SUCH GROUPS TO MEET WITH THEIR NORTH KOREAN COUNTERPARTS. THE ROKG WILL BE PREPARED, HOWEVER, IF SUCH IS DESIRED BY THE NORTH, TO HOLD A MEETING AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER.

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THAT THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE PROPOSAL IS TO GET THE BROKEN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE GOING AGAIN. IN THE VIEW OF THE ROKG ECONOMIC AND
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TECHNICAL EXCHANGE SHOULD CAUSE LESS RESISTANCE IN THE NORTH, ALTHOUGH AT THIS STAGE THEY ARE NOT OVERLY HOPEFUL OF A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM PYONGYANG. TALKS, IF HELD, COULD COVER SUCH MATTERS AS TRADE, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AND CREDIT ARRANGEMENTS.

3. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WENT ON TO SAY THAT SHOULD THE

PRESS ASK FOR FURTHER DETAILS THE ROKG WILL STATE THAT
IT IS WILLING TO BUY GOODS FROM THE NORTH ON THE ASSUMPTION
THAT THE NORTH MAY THEN WISH TO BUY ITEMS FROM THE ROK.

4. THE FOREIGN MINISTER PROMISED US AN ADVANCED TEXT
OF THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT, HOPEFULLY BY THE MORNING
OF JUNE 22.
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